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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,460	07/29/2003	Makoto Kobayashi	00862.023155	4841

5514 7590 11/01/2005

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EXAMINER

CHERY, MARDOCHEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2188

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/628,460	KOBAYASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mardochee Chery	2188	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 12/17/03 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires the following: (1) a list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office; (2) U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications listed in a section separately from citations of other documents; (3) the application number of the application in which the information disclosure statement is being submitted on each page of the list; (4) a column that provides a blank space next to each document to be considered, for the examiner's initials; and (5) a heading that clearly indicates that the list is an information disclosure statement. The information disclosure statement has not been considered because PTO form 1449 is missing.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: at line 14, "the" should be inserted before —eject--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 12 recites the limitation "...eject processing comprising..." in line 14.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anzai (6,944,734).

As per claim 1, Anzai discloses a storage unit detachable from an information processing apparatus, comprising: storage means for storing user information for user authentication [col.1, lines 22-34]; authentication means for performing authentication processing on the basis of authentication information input from an information processing apparatus in which the storage unit is mounted, and user information stored in said storage means [col.1, lines 35-44]; and output means for outputting an authentication result of said authentication means [col.5, lines 29-36].

As per claim 2, Anzai discloses the authentication means performs authentication on the basis of authentication information transmitted from the information processing apparatus together with eject instruction, and the user information stored in said storage means, and said output means notifies the information processing apparatus of eject permission when authentication by said authentication means is successful [col.8, line 49 to col. 9, line 12; col.10, lines 30-45; col.12, line 59 to col.13, line 11].

As per claim 3, Anzai discloses the user information includes a pair of identification information and password information which specify a user, and said authentication means determines that authentication is successful when a pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information are contained in the user information [col.1, lines 35-44; col.8, lines 49-57].

As per claim 4, Anzai discloses the user information contains an attribute assigned to a user, and said authentication means determines that authentication is successful when the pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information are contained in the user information and a user specified by the pair of identification information and password information is assigned a predetermined attribute [col.8, lines 49-57; col.1, lines 35-44].

As per claim 5, Anzai discloses the predetermined attribute includes mounter

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information which specifies a user who is first permitted to access the storage unit [col.1, lines 35-44].

As per claim 6, Anzai discloses the predetermined attribute information includes owner information representing an owner of the storage unit [col.1, lines 35-44; col.4, lines 25-30].

As per claim 7, Anzai discloses the unit further comprises holding means for holding designation information which designates an attribute to be used for authentication processing by said authentication means, and said authentication means determines that authentication is successful when the user specified by the pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information is assigned the attribute designated by the designation information [col.1, lines 35-50; col.8, lines 49-57].

As per claim 8, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated. Anzai further discloses means for providing an interface for causing a user to input authentication information in executing predetermined processing for the storage unit [col.1, lines 22-34]; transmission means for transmitting the authentication information input via the interface to the storage unit [col.1, lines 22-29]; and execution means for executing the predetermined processing for the storage unit on the basis of the authentication result output from the output means in response to transmission of the

authentication information [col.1, lines 35-44; col.5, lines 29-36].

As per claim 9, Anzai discloses the predetermined processing includes eject processing for the storage unit [col.10, lines 30-45].

As per claim 10, Anzai discloses an access control method for a storage unit detachable from an information processing apparatus, comprising: a registration step of registering user information for user authentication in a storage medium arranged in the storage unit [col.19, lines 21-29]; a providing step of providing an interface for causing a user to input authentication information in executing predetermined processing for the storage unit [col.1, lines 22-34]; an authentication step of causing the storage unit to execute authentication processing on the basis of the authentication information input via the interface and the user information registered in the registration step [col.1, lines 35-44]; and an execution step of executing the predetermined processing for the storage unit on the basis of an authentication result in the authentication step [col.1, lines 35-44; col.5, lines 29-36].

As per claim 11, Anzai discloses the predetermined processing includes eject processing for the storage unit [col.10, lines 30-45].

As per claim 12, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated. Anzai further discloses a providing step of providing an interface for causing a user to

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input authentication information in executing the predetermined processing for the storage unit [col.1, lines 22-34]; a transmission step of transmitting the authentication information input via the interface to the storage unit [col.1, lines 22-29]; a reception step of receiving the authentication result output from the output means in response to transmission of the authentication information [col.6, lines 1-9; col.19, lines 9-19]; and an execution step of executing the predetermined processing for the storage unit on the basis of the authentication result [col.1, lines 35-44; col.5, lines 29-36].

As per claim 13, Anzai discloses a computer-readable memory which stores a control program [Fig.1, control unit 17; col.6, lines 10-19].

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tanaka et al.	5,654,839
Yamamoto	2002/0032839

9. When responding to the office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty that he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. See 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c).

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mardochee Chery whose telephone number is (571)272-4246. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30A-5:00P.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manonama Padmanabhan can be reached on (571)272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 27, 2005

Kevin L. Ellis
Primary Examiner

Kevin L. Ellis



Mardochee Chery
Examiner
AU2188